

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NIC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20

NSC-10 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 066806

R 192250Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5509

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSHGSANTIAGO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, HO

SUBJECT: RUMORS THAT ECLA WILL MOVE TO HONDURAS

CRONISTA OCT 18 REPORTED THAT HONDURAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE RAFAEL LEIVA VIVAS HAS RETURNED TO HONDURAS BEARING REQUEST FROM ECLA THAT IT BE ALLOWED TO SHIFT ITS HEAD-QUARTERS FROM SANTIAGO TO TEGUCIGALPA. CRONISTA TAKES LINE SUCH MOVE WOULD BE VERY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR HONDURAS.

2. THERE IS STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS IS JUST ANOTHER CRONISTA INVENTION. AS ONE OF SMALLEST OF LA CAPITALS, TEGUCIGALPA WOULD NOT BE LOGICAL SEAT FOR ANY LARGE MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, STORY IS NOT PER SE IMPLAUSIBLE. WE CAN IMAGINE THAT LEFTIST OFFICIALS IN ECLA WOULD NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE UNDER NEW REGIME IN CHILE. AND LEIVA VIVAS HAS RECORD AS ACTIVIST, WITH REPORTEDLY GOOD CONNECTIONS TO ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. IT MAY WELL BE THAT HE IS TRYING TO FLOAT BALLOON, WITH IDEA OF GENERATING

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BID FOR SUCH MOVE FROM GOH. ALTERNATIVELY, HE MAY GENUINELY

BE EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES ON BEHALF OF ECLA EXECUTIVES
WHOM HE KNEW IN CHILE.

3. WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION ON SIZE AND MAKEUP OF ECLA,
BUT DO UNDERSTAND THAT A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF ITS PERMANENT
EMPLOYEES ARE DOCTRINAIRE RADICALS AND/OR LEFTISTS. ANY
MOVE OF LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH-POWERED AND WELL-EDUCATED
LEFTISTS INTO RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED AND CONSERVATIVE
HONDURAS WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS. IT WOULD CON-
SIDERABLY EXPAND PRESENT SMALL AND INEFFECTIVE UNIVERSITY
BASE FOR COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. SUCH A GROUP WOULD HAVE
ENOUGH GRAVITATIONAL ATTRACTION TO DISORIENT GOH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY VERY THIN
LINE OF ADEQUATELY EDUCATED OFFICIALS. (SOME HELP ON
CURRENT GOH FIVE-YEAR PLAN HAS BEEN GIVEN BY ILPES, ANOTHER
SANTIAGO-BASED ORGANIZATION RELATED TO ECLA.)

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS AND BACKGROUND
INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY SANTIAGO. HOW MANY PERSONS ARE
EMPLOYED BY ECLA IN SANTIAGO? HOW MANY ARE COMMUNISTS?
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ECLA IS INVESTIGATING CHANCES OF
SETTING UP NEW CENTER OR SUBCENTERS, FOR WHICH HONDURAS
IS BEING CONSIDERED?

(B) FOR DEPT: WHAT LINE SHOULD EMBASSY TAKE ON SUBJECT
WITH GOH?
SANCHEZ

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